

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO HQ US CUSTOMS SERVICE WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3654
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VIENNA FOR DEA

ROME FOR TOM BOYD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, RO
SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF U.S. CUSTOMS LETTER AND RECENT
INFORMATION ON ROMANIAN SEIZURE.

REF: MAN 10 03 0/10/4, APRIL 28, 1977

1. EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR LEGALLO HAND DELIVERED LETTER FROM ACTING COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (SEE REFTEL) TO CUSTOMS DIRECTOR TINCU 2 JUNE. CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS GULBENKIAN ALSO WAS PRESENT. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF MEETING.

2. SINCE PACKAGE CONTAINING FIFTEEN NARCOTICS KITS AND RELATED LITERATURE (WHICH APPARENTLY POUCHED FROM WASHINGTON 20 OCT. 1976 BUT ONLY RECEIVED HERE WEEK OF 23 MAY) HAD BEEN DELIVERED FROM EMBASSY DAY BEFORE, TINCU EXTENDED THANKS TO U.S. CUSTOMS FOR MATERIALS. AT ONE POINT, HE SAID THAT HE NOW HAD ENOUGH NARCOTICS SUPPORT ITEMS FOR HIS NEEDS AS HE HAD ALSO RECEIVED OTHER MATERIALS FROM ELSEWHERE. THIS ADMISSION OF HELP FROM SOME OTHER COUNTRY WAS OBVIOUSLY A
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SLIP OF THE TONGUE AS HE SUDDENLY APPEARED TO BE VERY EMBARRASSED, AND WE DID NOT THINK IT APPROPRIATE AT THAT MOMENT TO PROBE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

3. AFTER DISCUSSING IDEA RAISED IN LETTER (TINCU'S SUGGESTION OF A CERTIFICATE OF RECGONITION FOR ROMANIAN CUSTOMS PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES), TINCU

SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO THINK ABOUT DETAILS AND WOULD GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH US. HOWEVER, HE CLEARLY SEEMED TO FAVOR A JOINT U.S./ROMANIAN TYPE OF CERTIFICATE. HE PROVIDED THE TWO KINDS OF CERTIFICATE NOW ISSUED IN RECOGNITION OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE BY ROMANIAN CUSTOMS AND WE WILL POUCH THEM TO YOU FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

4. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON RECENT SEIZURES ALSO OBTAINED DURING THIS MEETING. SO FAR THIS YEAR, THREE SEIZURES TOTALING 74 KILOS HAVE BEEN MADE. THE LAST TOOK PLACE AT GIURGIU, ON BULGARIAN BORDER, 29 MAY. IT CONSISTED OF 24 KILOS OF HASHISH AND IS ESTIMATED BY GULBENKIAN TO BE WORTH OVER 400,000 U.S. DOLLARS ON WEST EUROPEAN BLACK MARKET. HASHISH WAS CONCEALED IN TWO TUBELESS TIRES OF CAR AND WAS DISCOVERED BY DOG AFTER ONE OF TWO PASSENGERS REACTED TO QUESTION FROM CUSTOMS INSPECTOR RE WEAPONS. BOTH INDIVIDUALS WERE TURKS AND TRIP HAD BEGUN IN TURKEY. ACCORDING TO GULBENKIAN THIS SEIZURE IS IN PATTERN: ONLY HASHISH HAS BEEN DISCOVERED SO FAR; SEIZURES ARE ALWAYS ON SOUTHERN BORDER POINTS, CARRIERS NORMALLY COME FROM TURKEY AND ARE ON THEIR WAY TO WEST GERMANY AND CARRIERS MAY OR MAY NOT BE AWARE THEY TRANSPORTING DURGS. TINCU IS RATHER PROUD OF SEIZURES SINCE, AS HE LIKES TO POINT OUT, BY TIME CARRIERS REACH ROMANIAN CUSTOMS, THEY HAVE USUALLY GONE THROUGH TURKISH CUSTOMS, AND TWO BULGARIAN BORDERS.

5. WE WERE ALSO INTERESTED TO LEARN THAT MINISTER FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PATAN, TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHOM TINCU IS RESPONSIBLE, WANTS TO BE INFORMED EACH TIME THERE IS A DRUG SEIZURE, AND TINCU NATURALLY COMPLIES. THIS IS FIRST INDICATION THAT HIGH LEVELS GOR ARE CONCERNED BY QUESTION OF DRUG TRANSIT.
VIETS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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